Starvation deaths in Palamau district of Jharkhand

2371. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported starvation deaths in Palamau district of Jharkhand; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM-RAJU): (a) and (b) There were reports in the press about starvation deaths in the Palamau district of Jharkhand. However,on investigation by State Government it was found that no person had died on account of starvation.

Prices of sugar

2372. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of sugar have risen by around 35-40 per cent during the past six months;

(b) if so, whether the prospects of improving the industry with the introduction of monthly quotas, future trading and the availability of transport subsidy have fuelled expectations of investors in this sector;

(c) whether the Central and State Governments have been able to formulate a policy on upstream product-sugarcane product and the movement of downstream products; and

(d) if so, to what extent these steps have been able to help the sugar industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The sugar prices have marginally declined during the past six months. The Government has allowed introduction of future trading in sugar with a view to ensure certain degree of price stability. Government has also framed rules for reimbursement of internal transport and freight